

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 NSC-05 MC-02 CIAE-00

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R 150816Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 880

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T MUSCAT 202

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, JO, MU

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN MILITARY AID TO OMAN

REF: MUSCAT 170; AMMAN 824

1. FONMIN ZAWAWI INFORMED AMBASSADOR AS FOLLOWS FEB. 13:

A. JORDANIAN CGS VISIT. ZAYD BIN SHAKER VISITED OMAN FEB. 9-11 DURING WHICH HE CALLED ON SULTAN AT SALALAH, WAS BRIEFED BY SAF HEADQUARTERS AND DHOFAR COMMAND, AND VISITED JORDANIAN INSTRUCTORS AT SAF TRAINING REGIMENT NEAR MUSCAT. FURTHER DETAILS ON JORDANIAN AID WERE AGREED, AS BELOW.

B. COMBAT BATTALION. WAS DECIDED THAT NEXT STEP IS FOR SMALL JORDANIAN MILGROUP TO COME LOOK OVER TERRAIN SELECTED FOR JORDANIAN DEPLOYMENT AND MAKE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON NUMBERS, EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS. ZAWAWI'S BEST GUESS ON ACTUAL ARRIVAL OF BATTALION IS LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL.

C. HAWKER HUNTERS. THIRTY HUNTERS ARE TO BE PROVIDED OMAN. SIXTEEN OF THESE WILL ARRIVE AT SEEB AIRPORT (NEAR MUSCAT)

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WITHIN FORTNIGHT, WITH REMAINDER TO BE "PRESENTED"

DURING SULTAN QABOOS' VISIT TO JORDAN WHICH SCHEDULED FOR TWO DAYS IN MARCH 8-12 PERIOD. JORDANIAN PILOTS WILL FERRY HUNTERS TO OMAN, AND JORDANIANS WILL PROVIDE GROUND SUPPORT PERSONNEL "AT LEAST FOR A TIME" AND "PROBABLY" SOME PILOTS AS WELL. SUBSEQUENTLY BRITISH WILL BE ASKED TO FIND PILOTS AND PERHAPS IRANIANS AS WELL, THOUGH ZAWAWI SAID SULTAN CURRENTLY CONSIDERING PILOT ASPECT. (COMMENT: ZAWAWI SEEMED UNSURE JUST HOW THIS ASPECT WILL COME OUT.) ALONG WITH AIRCRAFT IS COMING LARGE SUPPLY, "2 YEARS IN SOME CATEGORIES", OF SPARE PARTS, ENGINES AND ARMAMENT.

D. AIRLIFT PROBLEM. SAID KING HUSSEIN CURRENTLY TACKLING SHAH IN ST. MORITZ HOPING HE WILL ASSENT TO IRANIAN AIRLIFT OF BATTALION AND OF HUNTER SPARES AND ARMAMENT TO OMAN. ZAWAWI SPOKE OF UP TO 130 SORTIES. HE HINTED LIGHTLY THAT IF IRANIANS BALK, SULTAN MAY TURN TO USG.

2. WHEN AMB ASKED WHAT THIS WOULD MEAN FOR LONG-AWAITED ARRIVAL AT MIDWAY OF IRANIAN F-5 SQUADRON, ZAWAWI SAID THIS IS UNDECIDED, SAID OMANGOV ABOUT TO CONSULT WITH IRANIANS ON THIS AND, WHILE WOULD CERTAINLY NOT SAY IT NO LONGER WANTS F-5 PRESENCE, MIGHT SEE IF IRANIANS COULD INSTEAD PROVIDE SOME PILOTS AND GROUP PERSONNEL FOR HUNTERS WHICH MIGHT THEN BE BASED AT MIDWAY IN NEW FACILITIES PREPARED THIS FALL AND WINTER FOR F-5'S.

3. ASKED IF UK GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF FULL RANGE OF NEW JORDANIAN AID, INCLUDING HUNTERS, ZAWAWI RESPONDED INDEED THEY ARE.

4. COMMENT. ZAWAWI CLEARLY IS AWARE THAT APPROACHES TO IRAN MUST BE MADE DELICATELY LEST SHAH BE IRRITATED THAT OMAN SUDDENLY WANTS TO CHANGE THE GAME PLAN ON AIRCRAFT LATE IN THE CONTEST. HE SPOKE OF DIFFICULTY IN MECHANICS OF DEALING WITH IRANIANS JUST NOW, WHAT WITH IRAN'S AMBASSADOR ZAND ON LONG LEAVE, THE SULTAN'S POLITICAL/MILITARY ADVISER COL. LANDON ILL ABROAD, AND GEN. PERKINS JUST BREAKING IN VICE CREASEY AS SAF COMMANDER. BUT ZAWAWI SEEMS CONFIDENT ALL THIS WILL WORK OUT, AND DID NOT RPT NOT SEEK ANY USG HELP (AT LEAST FOR NOW).

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